

71 Laurel Street
Stratford, CT 06615

February 22, 2017

Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Representative Ziobron and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Julie Norko and I live in Stratford. I am a parent of a son named Bennett with I/DD. I am testifying on the impact of the Governor's budget on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I am concerned about the impact that these proposals have on those who are most vulnerable. My son is young still, but the time will come when he may need these services, and I hope that other individuals support me in my efforts, as I am doing now by writing this letter.

Please support the Governor's proposal to invest \$3.8 million in the ID Partnership which will help people on the DDS residential waiting list, support developing more residential options for people with I/DD and stabilize community based supports.

Please restore funding for day and employment services for all new graduates!

Please restore funding for Family Support Grants!

Please restore funding for new families who need Behavioral Support Services!

Please cut overtime and waste in DDS – DON'T CUT COMMUNITY SERVICES!

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Julie Norko
71 Laurel Street
Stratford, CT 06615